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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY <sup>SECURITY INFORMATION</sup> REPORT

# INFORMATION REPORT

## REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Spitzbergen/USSR

DATE DISTR. 10 November 1951

**SUBJECT** Soviet Mining Activity in Spitzbergen Area

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PLACE  
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1. Coal mining by the Soviets in the Spitzbergen area has been increased considerably in the past year. By early September, the Soviets had accumulated at Barentsburg a pile of coal estimated at 100,000 tons. Many of the ships leaving the port appear to be heavily loaded.
2. The number of people in the Soviet restricted area of Spitzbergen has increased from the 2300 persons present in 1942 to more than 3000. There has been a considerable increase in housing and many of the miners are accompanied by their wives, who also work in the mines.
3. The number of drilling towers has been increased, indicating that the Russians are possibly undertaking deep drilling operations up to 1900 feet below seams now being mined.

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4. [redacted] Pyramiden,  
the central town of the Soviet administration in Saltbergen. [redacted]  
[redacted] there were  
[redacted] Soviet men and women in Pyramiden, but no coal mines.

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